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**TESTIMONY OF
ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
MARCH 2, 2009**

I appreciate the opportunity to support Senate Bill 791, An Act Banning Bisphenol-A in Certain Children's Products and House Bill 6572, An Act Concerning Banning Bisphenol-A in Children's Products and Food Products and Prohibiting Certain Alternative Substances.

These legislative proposals bar the use of Bisphenol-A (BPA) in any product marketed for use by children under the age of three years. In addition, no one may sell or distribute any reusable food or beverage container containing BPA if a safe alternative is available. Finally, infant formula and baby food containers must be BPA-free by March 1, 2011.

Growing scientific evidence shows that even small amounts of BPA damages reproductive, neurological and immune systems. Experiments have linked even low levels of BPA to serious health problems, including prostate and breast cancer, early onset of puberty, obesity and diabetes.

A recently released study by the Yale School of Medicine clearly shows that BPA can cause brain fluctuations and mood disorders in monkeys. Another recent study by federal health agencies confirmed that BPA may affect human development.

These studies clearly show that BPA is dangerous. I have written to the Food and Drug Administration urging a ban on BPA specifically in baby bottles and baby formula containers. The FDA has so far refused to ban BPA. States must act in light of federal inaction.

The more conscientious manufacturers are considering elimination of BPA from their products. State law must ensure that all products are BPA-free.

I urge the committee's favorable consideration of this legislation.